DIG

MAGAZINE

September 2006

Global Warning

Theories and truths behind a climatic crisis

Alternative Fuels

ALSO INSIDE:

- Do It Yourself: Pillows
- American Marketing Association
- Summer's Reality TV

EDITOR'S LETTER

For the first time in I don't even know how many years, I did not take a single summer school class. Finally, I had three months to breathe and relax—in-between moving to Surf City, painting infinite walls, crafting into the wee hours of the night and making endless amounts of coffee—but it all went by too fast.

Ben and Ilan spent their summer vacation researching the myths and truths of Global Warming and brought it down to terms that everyday people can understand.

I must apologize to all those with culinary aspirations, we have removed the kitchen section. But we have come up with something even better: Do It Yourself. This month I show you how to make fun throw pillows for your apartment or dorm using bandanas and old T-shirts.

Dig Magazine is back this semester with fresh faces and ideas. September is just the beginning. So in the words of Tim Gunn, "Carry on."

Angela O'Brien

DIG MAGAZINE

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Cover photo: Industrial Long Beach as seen on Studebaker Road just around the corner from the south end of campus. Photo by Grant Eads.

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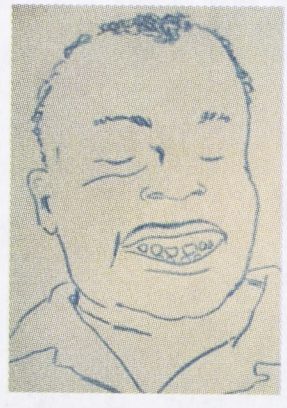
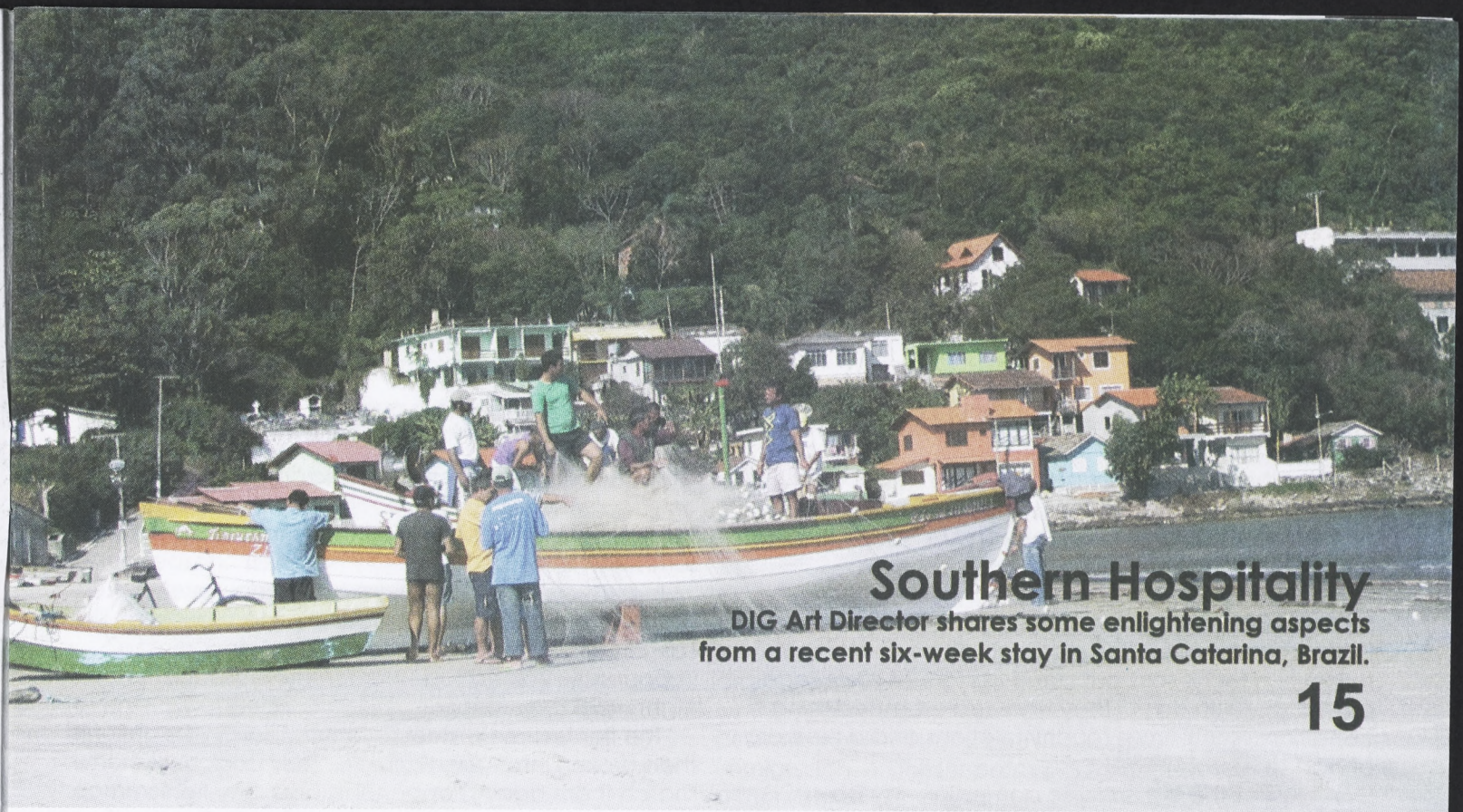
Erin Miller, 22

Between her responsibilities as a web designer for the city of Huntington Beach and as online editor for Dig, Erin found the time to look into one of CSULB's largest student-run organizations, American Marketing Association.



Grant Eads, 21

Art directors are rarely, albeit never inclined to dabble in journalism - but there's a first for everything. Señor Eads takes a trip to the southern hemisphere and finds new friends, foods and memories to last a lifetime. Check out his export: Brazil on pg. 15.



Southern Hospitality

DIG Art Director shares some enlightening aspects from a recent six-week stay in Santa Catarina, Brazil.

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Global Warming

After a record breaking heat wave and Al Gore's ominous documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," DIG investigates the realities and assumptions of global warming.

By Ben Hooker and Ilan Cloud

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Pity the Fuel

Since the price of fuel doesn't appear to be receding in the next few months (or years), check out some new alternative methods hitting gas stations soon.

By Brandy Baker, Lauren Ehler and Risa Koshiba

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Made for Cable

TOURGASM

Funny things happen when you put the country's fastest rising star, Dane Cook, and three of his comedian friends in a giant bus and have them tour the country.

Tourgasm, a reality show on HBO, was filmed in the spring of 2005 just as Dane's career began to skyrocket. Dane invited three of his stand-up comedian friends to join him for his sold-out stand-up tour of 20 college campuses in 30 days. They endured cramped living conditions, sometimes touchy relations and a plethora of bad smells.

Along for the trip is rookie comedian Jay Davis, the conflicted and worrisome Gary Gulman and the veteran comedian Robert Kelly. Throughout the nine part series you watch the comedians test out new material and deal with the stress' of living on the road.

Each town brings new challenges and excitement as the comedians deliver their stand-up routines, hit the town and crash back at the bus to wake up and start the whole process over again. Relations turn hostile at times when jokes and ball-busting go to far but in the end there's plenty of male bonding, soul searching and reflection.

Don't be surprised if a little tear wells up in you eye as you start reminiscing of past road trips with your own friends. **-Ilan Cloud**

THE ULTIMATE FIGHTER

In adhering to its reputation as a "macho-guys-only" network, Spike TV brought the third season of The Ultimate Fighter to blood-thirsty fans this past summer.

In classic reality TV fashion, 16 fighters were brought to an undisclosed estate in the suburbs of Las Vegas where they lived, ate, slept and, most importantly, trained together for the subsequent eight weeks.

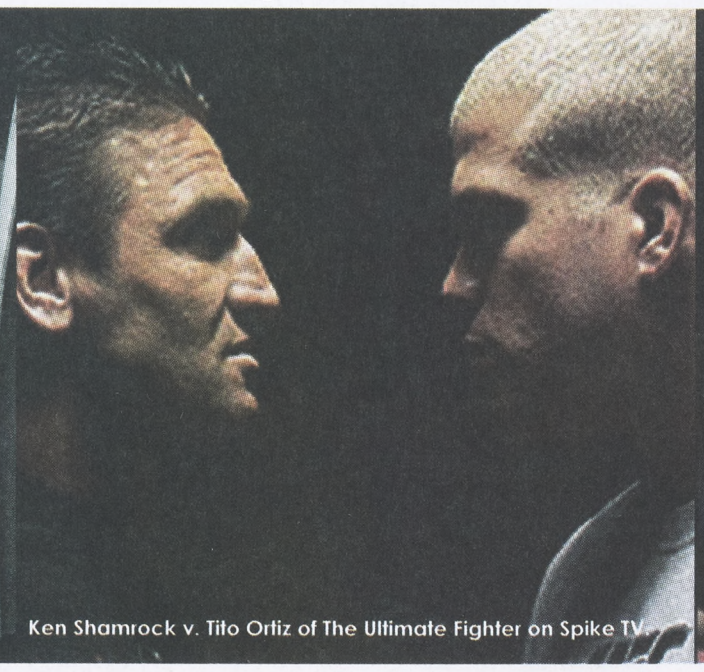
The fighters are divided into two teams of eight then broken into weight classes. Their coaches match them against opponents and they fight for two six-figure contracts in the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

The competitive drama featured more than a few spats outside the ring. UFC veterans and bitter rivals Tito Ortiz and Ken Shamrock coached the opposing teams and were caught in multiple shouting matches while their teams watched in disgust.

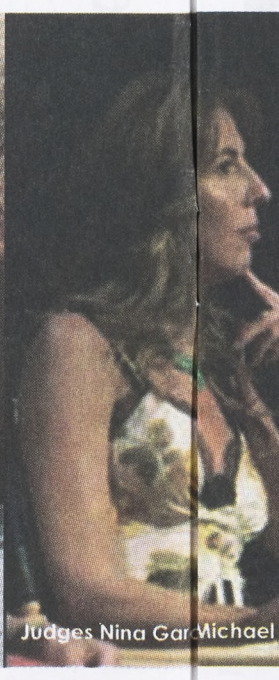
Tito finished with bragging rights as team Ortiz fighters Kendall Grove and Michael Bisping walked away with UFC contracts after beating out the other 6 fighters in their weight class.

This season, Spike hopes to up the ante by giving two winning fighters a shot at the middle-weight and welter-weight titles. **-Ben Hooker**

Dane Cook from HBO's Tourgasm.



Ken Shamrock v. Tito Ortiz of The Ultimate Fighter on Spike TV.



Judges Nina Gar Michael

While network TV tried to maintain its mediocre summer ratings with the same ol' reruns from last fall, cable television boomed its summer line-up with ground-breaking reality shows.

PROJECT RUNWAY

Just four months after the second season finale, Bravo's Project Runway began its third run of the "sewtastic" reality show. The story is the same for each season. The show starts with 15 budding designers, which will be narrowed down to a trio who will compete at New York Fashion Week this fall.

Season two's cast grew into an obsession of mine. Each Wednesday, I would rush home to watch every new episode. I would be amazed at every single design by Daniel V. and not a week went by where I wouldn't bark at judge Nina Garcia's asinine comments.

The drama is without a doubt subpar with the two previous seasons. The show is starving for Santino's turd jokes and Tim Gunn impersonations. However, the on-going battle with whiney Angela (who should be "auf'd" by now along with her hideous quilted rosettes) and neck-tattoo Jeffery does provide for entertainment in typical Project Runway fashion.

This season, Michael—the only contestant to win more than one challenge, thus far—is a crowd favorite. His Pam Grier inspired bright pink top and hot pants design was out of control. Michael definitely has what it takes to make it to the final three. **-Angela O'Brien**

30 DAYS

See life through the eyes of opposition. Does it take 30 days to gain a different, broader perspective? Morgan Spurlock from Super Size Me fame addresses this through his gutsy nonfiction television series 30 Days on FX. Spurlock presents each issue with a foundation of facts, statistics, and comparisons so the viewer is well-versed in the subject matter before witnessing the drama behind it.

The season opens up facing one of the hottest debates in our country and in our state—illegal immigration. A border patrolling minuteman becomes a member of a loving and hardworking family of illegal immigrants residing in East Los Angeles for 30 days. The kicker: the minuteman is Latino.

His family migrated legally from Cuba. His perfect Spanish creates even more heartbreak and confusion for this distraught family who crossed the border to escape poverty. The two sides clash with passionate opposition. The family's warmth, similar values and cultural connection break his assumption that laws are flawless which the minuteman tries his hardest to hide behind.

Spurlock brings the discomfort and controversy of pressing issues right into America's living room, and it is hard to look away. Face that reality, and it makes you want to be a part of change. **-Christine Harmon**

ina Gar Michael Kors and Heidi Klum from Bravo's Project Runway.

Morgan Spurlock of 30 Days on FX.

GLOBAL

BY BEN HOOKER
& ILAN CLOUD

This summer, Los Angeles county hit a record 119 degrees in the month of July. Over 113 people died from heat exhaustion and related ailments in the state of California alone as an unprecedented heat wave scorched the country. The heat, coupled with massive climatic changes across the globe, has sparked great interest in the environment and the probability that global warming should no longer be thought of as merely a theory.

A revolution on the way we view Global Warming and the future of our planet has begun. A year packed with super charged hurricanes, record setting heat waves, rising gas prices and the popular documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth", have changed the public's perception of climate change dramatically. Many now believe a shift in the way we live must take place and that we are at the dawn of a new environmental age. Not everyone is in agreement however, (most notably the White House) but as scientists urge, debating the topic may be a luxury of the past.

Global Warming in a Nutshell

Each year, humanity dumps roughly eight billion metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere, 6.5 billion tons from fossil fuels and 1.5 billion from deforestation. We rely upon forests, grasslands, and the waters of the oceans to collect and recycle the carbon emissions for us. They absorb back roughly half of the carbon dioxide we emit, slowing its buildup in the atmosphere and delaying the effects on Earth's climate. But it's the other half that has everyone concerned.

Scientific Evidence

Around 4 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) builds up in the atmosphere, contributing to an already **mounting** concentration of greenhouse gasses. The Earth stores massive amounts of ice near the north and south poles, in places like Antarctica and Greenland. These ice caps act as **stabilizers** for our climate by absorbing heat and cooling our oceans but according to the National Geographic Survey on Climate Change, almost 40 percent of the ice content at both poles has either broken off or melted into the sea since 1964. Coincidentally, the concentration of carbon dioxide and related gases has risen as well – by 40 percent.

When CO2 is trapped in the atmosphere it acts as a barrier, blocking climate-altering gasses from escaping into space. Basically, CO2 traps gasses and insulates Earth's surface. The carbon emissions act very much like a jacket wrapped around the globe. Not only does it warm the surface but it also traps heat from escaping so the hotter the surface gets the faster it will sweat causing polar ice caps to melt off.

One of the most shocking findings the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports is that "the 20th century's 10 warmest years all occurred in the last 2 decades. The hottest was 2005." 2006 has already had a heat wave and many cities across the nation reported their highest temperatures. Los Angeles hit a record of 119 degrees in late July.

Should the ice caps melt suddenly (within a matter of years) the results would be devastating – a flood of global proportions. To put it in perspective, the southern California coastline could be swept underwater up to 20 miles inland. CSULB would be a submerged memory.

For any skeptic who might still claim that global warming is a natural occurrence, the EPA strongly concludes, "increasing levels of greenhouse gases, like CO2, in the atmosphere since pre-industrial times have been well documented. There is no doubt this atmospheric buildup of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is largely the result of human activities."

The research is in and we can all accept the facts, but the question remains; who is to blame and how can we change?

"Is it possible that we should prepare against other threats besides terrorists?"

- Al Gore

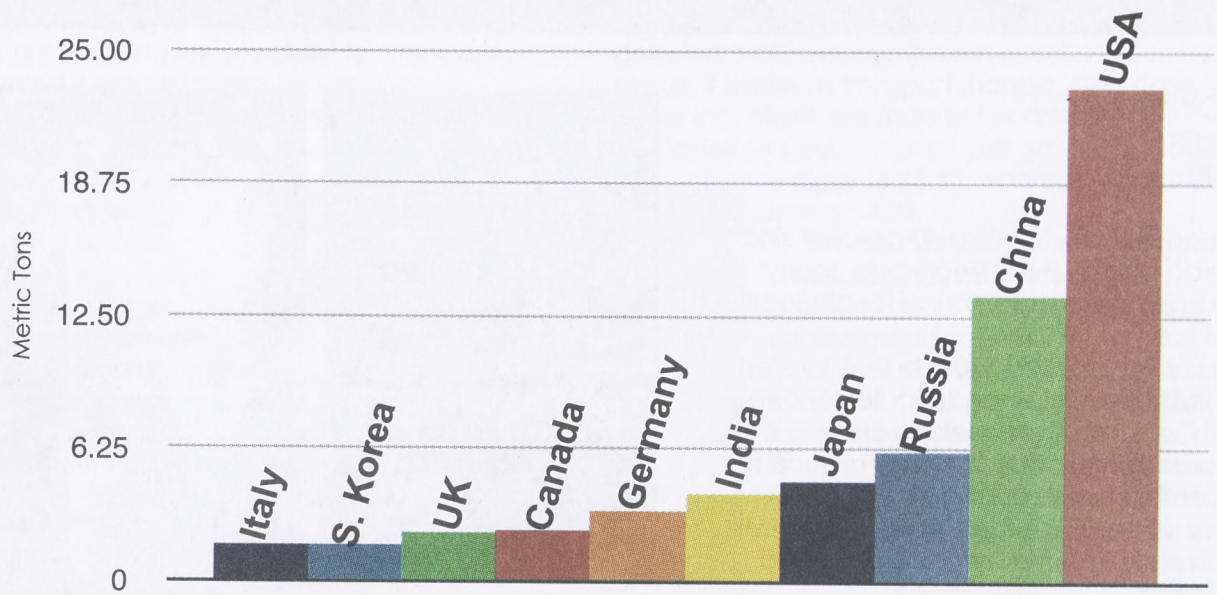
Culprits

The EPA monitors and limits the amount of CO2 emitted by factories, power plants, refineries and other perpetrators across the country. **Their most recent report states that Commercial and Industrial emissions account for 98 percent of CO2 in the United States.**

But, doesn't that make it their problem and not the publics? **Well, sort of but not really.** They run factories that produce things like cars, shoes and paint. By

WARNING

the anatomy of a environmental pandemic



Top 10 Carbon Dioxide Emitting Countries Relative to Population

buying their products and services we support their polluting habits. Their refineries are supported by our gas needs so as long as their products are purchased CO2 emissions will continue.

Transportation also contributes greatly to CO2 emissions. The dramatic rises in fuel prices have brought this issue to light and consumer trends in the automobile industry reflect this. Companies like Chevrolet and Ford were hit hard as sales dropped for SUV's and trucks. Inversely, companies that sell more fuel efficient vehicles have prospered, like Honda and Toyota. It may take a dramatic rise in oil prices to stimulate change though, especially since the government has proven inept or oblivious toward curbing emission outputs.

While the rest of the world's countries have tightened their emission standards, United States has yet to follow suit.

At a conference in December of 1997, in Kyoto, Japan, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by harnessing the forces of the global marketplace to protect the environment. The major countries of the world, along with the United States, formed a treaty to scale back CO2 emissions by limiting their output at places like oil refineries, coal mines and factories. Today this is commonly known as the Kyoto Treaty.

President Bush chose to disregard this treaty despite protest of both the House and Senate when he took office in 2000. The U.S. and Australia are the only major countries that have not signed the Kyoto treaty since its implementation.

Consequently and according to many recent news articles, the U.S. has risen to the top, becoming the world's #1 Carbon emitting superpower per-capita, although government scientists have warned of the problem for years.

Now

We've all heard the stats on smog levels and seen the data on how our homes and vehicles are clogging the environment. Many believe they simply do not contribute enough to make a difference either way but the Energy Information Administration, which provides official statistics from the U.S. Government, estimates that the average American emits 15,000 pounds of CO2 each year. From our vehicles to our electric bill everyone contributes to the problem and until consumer trends change, the problem will persist.

There are simple things that can be changed to make a difference. Replacing light bulbs with compact florescent bulbs can make a difference. These bulbs use 60 percent less energy and, according to ClimateCrisis.net, if every American household made this switch carbon emissions could be reduced by as much as 90 billion pounds. By recycling and using recycled paper two birds can be killed with one stone –making recycled paper costs about 90 percent less energy and it saves the planets forests. Also, switching over to a hybrid vehicle can significantly reduce carbon emissions. Driving is the number one contributor to carbon emissions. For more ideas on reducing carbon emissions check out ClimateCrisis.net.

Pity the Fuel:

the future of automobiles

BY BRANDY BAKER
LAUREN EHLER
RISA KOSHIBA

With the cost of crude oil up 40 percent since the war in Iraq began three years ago, many consumers have begun clamoring for alternative methods of fuel.

As prices hover close to $70 a barrel, interest in Ethanol, hybrid vehicles, and biodiesel have increased. Consumers are seeking answers on how to decrease fuel costs and help reduce the amount of emissions released by vehicles.

Electricity is one of the most popular choices for alternative fuel. Currently, it is widely used to power motors in hybrid vehicles.

Electric vehicles are run by batteries and can travel about 60-70 miles per day, then must be charged overnight. Because they take so long to charge, the idea of electric vehicles never really caught on.

Many places across the state have electric vehicle charging stations, but most go unused.

"We do have a charging station, but it doesn't work anymore," said Martha Ayard, who manages a Shell Gas Station in Long Beach. "No one ever asks about it and no one ever used it so we just shut it down."

Because electric vehicles have only attracted a small amount of buyers, manufacturers took the idea to the next level by producing hybrid vehicles.

Hybrid cars have two engines, one that runs on gasoline which helps it accelerate, and then it has an electric motor which helps it cruise at higher speeds. The gas engine turns on and off depending upon the power demands, and, the engine and the friction from braking helps to charge the battery which powers the electric motor. The generator runs on gas, so the fuel tank must have gas in it to run the generator. Hybrid vehicles are efficient because of small engines and generators. On average, these cars can travel around 50 miles per gallon.

Sterling Harris, 27-year-old CSULB Engineering student, is the owner of a 2005 Toyota Prius hybrid.

"It's not about global warming," he states, "It's about the depletion of oil. The fact is that people are living longer, using more resources, and suffer from high standards of living."

He says the result is a massive demand for energy from a source that cannot be replenished.

"The long term economic picture isn't going to be pretty. Eventually, we could run out of oil."

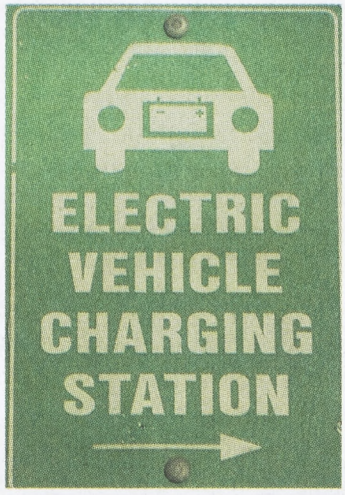
Many people are looking towards purchasing a hybrid to save money and to reduce how much and how often they consume oil. Dr. Barry Groves, Los Altos School District Superintendent, is a Prius enthusiast.

"I purchased it because it is good for the environment, saves gas, makes a statement about the environment, and is economical," Dr. Groves said, "we need to find alternatives to fossil fuels, so maybe this [vehicle] will help to provide incentives to do the research."

"The long term economic picture isn't going to be pretty. Eventually, we could run out of oil."

Ethanol is another alternative fuel that is growing in popularity. It is a grain-based alcohol made from a natural feedstock containing sugar, starch or cellulose. Sugar cane and corn are the most useful raw materials for manufacturing ethanol. These days, there is high demand for ethanol as motor fuel.

Even though it contains about 25 percent less energy than traditional gasoline, ethanol will help to reduce petroleum consumption and improve the environment. It has a high oxygen content allowing it to

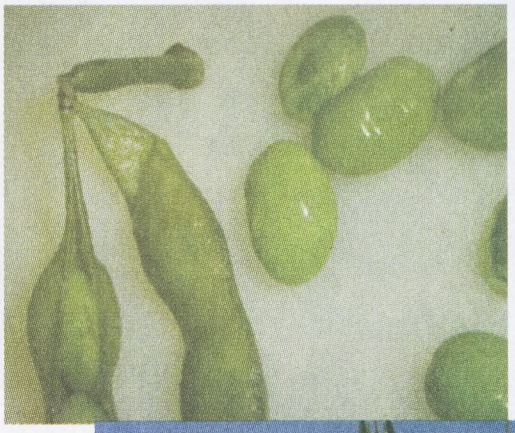


Photos by Brandy Baker

burn cleanly and more completely than any other fuel. Ethanol production also helps rural economic development because it increases the demand for crops and farmers.

Brazil is the world leader of ethanol use. Joseph Costello, a transportation specialist for Stericycle, Inc., traveled there last spring for vacation.

"Ethanol was still expensive in Brazil," he said. "Even though it's not cheap; you don't have to worry about the oil and you can be independent from oil import."



In the United States, ethanol commonly exists as E85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. The most common low concentration blend of ethanol is E10, a blend of 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline, even though E10 is not considered an alternative fuel, it can work in any type of car.

And as for those with diesel engines, the best choice for alternative fuel is biodiesel. Similar to ethanol's use of corn, biodiesel powers engines off natural, renewable sources like new and used vegetable oils or animal fats. The fuel is usually a blend of petroleum fuel and 20 percent biodiesel B20, yet pure biodiesel or B100 is available. 45 percent of the biodiesel industry uses vegetable oils, usually soy, for manufacturing the fuel. The other 55 percent of the industry are able to use any animal or feedstock fat and even recycled cooking grease to make biodiesel. It is cheaper to make the fuel with animal fats.

B100 produces the least amount of emissions by reducing the release of carbon dioxide by 75 percent over petroleum fuel. A 15 percent reduction is seen when using the B20 blend. Biodiesel also helps to reduce other emissions such as carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide. Engines running on the fuel produce less particulate matter as well. These are all pollutants listed under the United States Clean Air Act.

Using biodiesel is also safer than filling up with petroleum oil because it is less combustible. This makes it easier to transport, handle, and store. Other incentives are federal tax credits.

California's current price per gallon for biodiesel is close to $3.50, whereas regular diesel is only $3.23.

B20 can be used in most standard diesel engines with virtually no problems, yet B100 often require special engine modifications.

With all the benefits of biodiesel, the market has grown dramatically in the past few years. In 1998, when the Energy Policy Act was amended by the Energy Conservation Reauthorization Act to include biodiesel, it helped to make the alternative fuel requirements for federal, state, and public utility companies.

This created a sharp increase in how many were using biodiesel for alternative fuel. Soon, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and Energy were using biodiesel along with numerous school districts, national parks, public utility companies, garbage and recycling companies, and transit authorities.

The demand for biodiesel is estimated to increase from the current 75 million gallons to at least 124 million gallons per year.

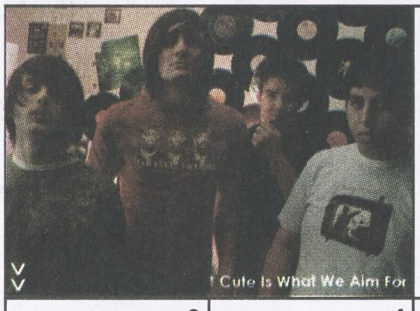
Harris urges consumers to keep in mind the EROEI or Energy Returned on Energy Invested when seeking answers in alternative fuels. "It's pretty simple, and it's critical when it comes to discussing any alternative fuel. If a particular fuel requires more energy to produce than it gives back, it doesn't make any sense to produce that fuel. It would make more sense to just use the original fuel."

DIG UNDERGROUND

When Drum and Bass meets Hip Hop, a fusion of sound explodes onto the music scene. DJ Jayvon and MC XYZ throw down their secrets to success with Christine on page 10. Photo courtesy of DJ Jayvon and MC XYZ.

SEPTEMBER

Your guide to concerts, movies, on campus events and local happenings

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Women's Soccer v. Southern Utah @ George Alan Field *"Crank"* *"The Wickerman"*	
3 Paramore & Cute Is What We Aim For @ HOB Anaheim, 7:30 p.m.	4	5 L.B. City Council Mtgs every Tuesday Adrenaline @ El Tapatio every Tuesday, 10 p.m.	6	7 Women's Volleyball v. St. Mary's @ Pyramid	8 "Pacifico Dance" @ Carpenter Center (9/8-9/9) "Twentieth Century" @ Intl' City Theatre *"Hollywoodland"*	9 Women's Volleyball v. Idaho @ Pyramid
10 A Tribe Called Quest @ The Wiltern, 8 p.m.	12 	13 Mae @ Henry Fonda Theatre, 8 p.m.		15 Women's Volleyball v. UNLV @ Pyramid *"The Black Dahlia"* *"Gridiron Gang"* *"The Last Kiss"*		16 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer (310)268-1450
17 Brazilian Street Carnival @ L.B. Promenade	18	19 Action Reaction @ Alley, 7 p.m.	20	21 Farmer's Market @ L.B. Promenade every Thursday Andrew Bird & Cass McCombs @ Henry Fonda Theatre, 8.30 p.m.	22 Ben Kweller @ Avalon, 8 p.m. *"All The King's Men"* *"Jet Li's Fearless"*	23 Ratatat @ Glasshouse, 7 p.m. Men's Water Polo v. USC @ Campus Pool
24 C.A.R.E. Triathlon @ Shoreline Dr.	25 Mute Math @ Henry Fonda Theatre, 7 p.m. DMX @ HOB Anaheim, 7 p.m.		27 Snow Patrol @ The Wiltern, 8 p.m.	28	29 Women's Volleyball v. UNLV @ Pyramid *"Children of Men"* *"School for Scoundrels"*	30 Men's Water Polo v. UCSD @ Campus Pool Common @ CSUN, 3 p.m. Walk for Obesity 2006 @ L.B. Bike Path

Melting the Wax:
Hip Hop and Drum & Bass

Photo courtesy of DJ Jayvon and MC XYZ.

BY CHRISTINE HARMON

Those unaware of drum and bass usually relate it to the rave scene. DJ Jayvon, crown holder of K-Swiss' Best DJ Contest and MC XYZ of Demostreams.com and Outlook Skateboards are here to change that stereotype by combining popular sounds of hip hop with drum and bass.

"I always try to get crowd interaction to get people into it," says DJ Jayvon, whose label, Sugar Coated Recordings, will soon debut his latest productions. "From the songs I play, the rhymes he says, and the flavor of the approach, people are more understanding and can relate more to our style."

It all began with the release of their first CD titled "TWIX- 2 N*ggas in the Mix" and the success of their performances at The Rapture and Planet of the Drums featuring headliners Dieselboy, Dara and AK1200. This led to a series of follow-up collaborations along with non-stop shows all over the region including opening for A-Trak (Kanye West's DJ) at an URB Magazine event.

"A lot of people like hip hop, period," says MC XYZ whose silliness plagues both his conversations and rhymes. "So after we did 'TWIX,' we had to start performing together because it was literally like, bananas."

The duo's combination of similar tastes and collectively relentless ambition has created a lethal team pouring through Los Angeles's drum and bass scene.

"When a DJ works with an MC, you develop a rapport over years," says MC XYZ. "I know (Jayvon) so I know what he's going to drop, his style, and what he expects from me. We both know how to deliver to the crowd. The love that we receive from the people, I couldn't have gotten without our collaboration together."

DJ Jayvon's flawless mixing and creative mash-ups along with MC XYZ's clever lyrics leave no question as to why their schedules are consistently packed. Despite their success in LA, they never stop reaching higher.

"I'll try to impress the raver in the back to the hardcore head in the front to the guy that is working security to the people that it's their first time there," says MC XYZ.

Following three successful collaborations, the duo released their latest, "Golden State Warriors." This mix plays on several ideas from the name of the album to tracks by today's most popular artists.

"Obviously, it has to do with the West Coast where we're from," explains MC XYZ. "But for me, it's meant like you're in a golden state of drum and bass. And even though we're not like Shang Dynasty warriors, we're all warriors of this sound pushing it forward."

Jayvon's ingenuity and diverse track selection keep you on your toes.

"We always try to outdo our last one," says DJ Jayvon. "I'm trying to exist beyond this city and beyond this music. Some DJs just do it to collect a check, and it shows. I'm going to get back into hip hop more again because it is so much fun, and I miss it. Drum and bass is just one genre, and if you keep yourself nailed down to that, you're going to get bored eventually."

Both assert that limiting themselves to one genre will only block progression.

"We're trying to branch out. We can't be stuck in the box of drum and bass," says MC XYZ.

Jayvon illustrates this point with a line from the infamous Chappelle's Show, when he yells, "Diversify yo bonds, nigga!"

AMA: Making their Mark.

BY ERIN MILLER

Members from American Marketing Association beam with $10,000. Photos courtesy of Eileen Street.

Student organization of the year, the American Marketing Association (AMA) is planning to have even better than last year.

"I have certain goals in mind," Professor Tomlin, AMA advisor, said. "I always want the new group to be better than the last."

Former vice president of communications, Eileen Street, is the new president. Street joined AMA as a freshman and has been a consistent member for four years. She has seen the club grow and ensures she knows what to improve for this year.

"[AMA] has definitely grown a huge deal," Street said. "As a freshman, there were 20-30 people at the meetings, and now we have over 150 paid members."

AMA meets in the College of Business on Mondays at 5 p.m. where top-level speakers are provided for every meeting.

Former speakers include: co-founder of Wahoo's, vice president of marketing for Playboy and the vice president of marketing for ABC Family. Meetings are a great way for students to make contacts for future jobs and internships.

"I've had many students from AMA go on to work on campaigns for big corporations such as Nike, Starbucks, Quicksilver, Pepsi and Reebok," Tomlin said. "These opportunities are great for students to decide if it's what they really want. They may really like working for the company, or they may decide that it's not for them."

Street says AMA is great place to learn how to market and develop yourself. Not only does AMA provide opportunities for internships and contacts, but they also offer chances for students to network with each other through social events like bonfires, roller skating, fund-raisers and boat parties, just to name a few.

AMA is also very active outside of campus. Members have participated in feeding the homeless, running marathons, Habitat for Humanity, painting a Boys and Girls facility in Watts, and organizing a benefit concert to raise money to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The concert was one of Tomlin's proudest moments in the six years of working as an advisor. The organization's original goal was $10,000, but far exceeded that amount earning $28,000. Money was raised from ticket sales, a silent auction alongside guest and company donations. All the money was designated for the people in need, and 32 students were selected to rebuild houses in Lake Charles, La. during spring break.

The AMA executive board has planned to offer members an unforgettable year. Upcoming events include a pool party, broom ball, NIKE Run Hit Remix, networking events, the National Conference in New Orleans, and much more.

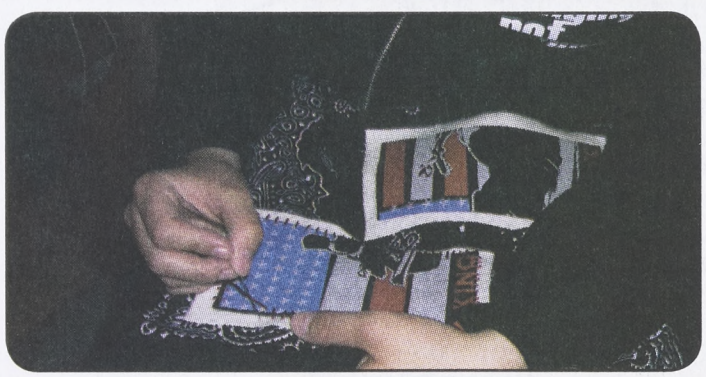
D.I.Y.

BY ANGELA O'BRIEN

Rags to Stitches

Don't wear that old, ratty T-shirt anymore but still refuse to throw it away? Find another use for it. In one afternoon, you can turn that aged T-shirt into a fun, creative pillow for your couch or bed.

STUFF YOU NEED: an 18x18 pillow form, a T-shirt, two bandanas, felt, fusible webbing, embroidery thread, sewing machine (or needle and thread), measuring tape, scissors, pins, iron



Instructions

1. Cut out the image on the shirt in any fashion you like. Trim the bandanas down to a 19x19 square piece of cloth. You will be trimming about a half-inch to an inch on all sides of the bandana. Be sure to measure!
2. Cut a piece of fusible webbing the same size and shape of the T-shirt image. If you want to get fancy, layer a piece of felt behind the image. Iron the image, felt and front-side bandana all together with the fusible webbing.
3. Before you start sewing the front-side bandana to the back-side one, stitch a few patterns and designs around the T-shirt image and felt. Get creative and use contrasting or complimentary colors.
4. With the right-sides of the bandanas facing each other, sew the two bandanas together by using a machine or by hand. If you are sewing by hand, use the back stitch. Leave a large hole in bottom side, so the pillow form can fit through. Turn the newly sewn pillow case right-side-out.
5. Fit the pillow form through the hole and use the overhand stitch to sew up the bottom of the pillow.

BY GRANT EADS

southern hospitality

BRA

It had been over a year since my last journey away from the United States of America and it's not an everyday occurrence that I get to spend time in Brazil. Of course, I jumped at the opportunity to take Global News Media and Writing for the Web over a six-week period in South America.

Before leaving on 2 June, my friends, family and girlfriend expressed their concern for my safety while studying in the city of Florianopolis. A bit of concern is always going to be present, especially when CNN and BBC were reporting prison riots and civilian slayings in Sao Paulo, one of Brazil's largest cities, just days before my departure.

After a 24-hour dose of airports, layovers, flights and "iffy" plane food I found myself sitting in Florianopolis airport waiting for two other classmates to arrive. The Portuguese language barrier kicked into gear as I was walking around the airport. I quickly realized that four years of high school Spanish were going to be of little use on this trip.

Rule number one: Portuguese, although similar, is not Spanish. Rule number two: Don't expect anyone to speak English. I was a foreigner crippled by a communication barrier. Basic Portuguese phrases and hand signals became my two best friends.

WANTED

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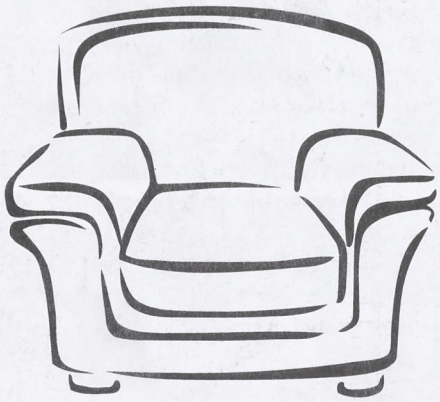

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